

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7361

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8163

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD,

PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND AMB. SNEIDER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY GEORGE OGLE

REF: A. STATE 264710, B. SEOUL 8000

1. SINCE REF B SENT, ACTING FONMIN LHO SHIN YONG HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PURSUED OGLE SITUATION WITH CHARGE. ESSENCE OF LHO'S PITCH WAS THAT HIGH-LEVEL ROKG MEETING HAD VIRTUALLY DECIDED TO EXPEL OGLE, BUT HAD BEEN DISSUADED FROM IMPLEMENTING ACTION AS RESULT LHO'S PLEA THAT EMBASSY SHOULD BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON OGLE. HE ACCORDINGLY ASKED CHARGE OFFICIALLY TO REQUEST OGLE TO CEASE HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND, AT ONE ONE POINT, REQUESTED THAT CHARGE OBTAIN FROM OGLE WRITTEN GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD DO SO. CHARGE TOLD LHO THAT HE COULD NEITHER EXERT INFLUENCE NOR OBTAIN GUARANTEE OF ANY KING FROM OGLE, BUT AGREED TO LAY OUT SITUATION FOR WHATEVER CONSIDERATION OGLE CARED TO GIVE IT.

2. CHARGE AND ACTING POL COUNSELOR ACCORDINGLY DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH OGLE AT LUNCH DECEMBER 6. MADE CLEAR TO OGLE THAT WE NOT OFFERING HIM ADVICE NOR EXERTING ANY
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PRESSURE REGARDING HIS ACTIVITIES BUT SIMPLY PROVIDING

INFORMATION AS WE HAVE RECEIVED IT FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES WITHIN ROKG. WE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED ROKG BILL OF PARTICULARS RESPECTING HIS ALLEGED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND TOLD HIM THAT WE THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT ROKG WOULD IN FACT MOVE TO EXPEL HIM IF HE CONTINUED SUCH ACTIVITIES. WE ALSO DESCRIBED LIMITED NATURE OF ASSISTANCE WHICH EMBASSY MIGHT RENDER HIM FROM LEGAL STANDPOINT, ADDING THAT EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS CONTINUE ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE ROKG THAT EXPULSION WOULD CREATE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION NOT BENEFICIAL TO US-ROKG OVERALL RELATIONS, IF ROKG SHOULD IN FACT MOVE AGAINST HIM.

3. OGLE WAS APPRECIATIVE, SAID HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING SOME SUCH DEVELOPMENT, AND THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD POINT THAT EMBASSY WAS NOT TRYING TO PRESSURE HIM INTO ANY PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION. HE REFLECTED THAT MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE HAD BEEN SPENT IN KOREA, AND THAT HE INTENDED TO DEDICATE REMAINDER TO WORK AMONG KOREANS, BUT THAT NATURE OF ROKG OPPRESSION ON PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE WAS IN DAILY CONTACT WAS SUCH THAT HE DID NOT FEEL HE COULD ABSTAIN FROM SPEAKING OUT. IF ROKG WAS DETERMINED TO DO SO, THEREFORE, OGLE FELT THAT HE MIGHT WELL FACE EXPLULSION.

4. CHARGE INFORMED LHO DECEMBER 7 THAT HE HAD HELD DISCUSSION WITH OGLE, EMPHASIZING HE HAD SIMPLY PASSED INFORMATION ON ROKG ATTITUDES. BEYOND SAYING OGLE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERING INFORMATION, CHARGE DID NOT DESCRIBE OGLE'S REACTION. LHO, OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT ADDED OWN WEIGHT ON BEHALF ROKG, SAID DECISION TO EXPEL OGLE WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN AT MEETING AFTERNOON DECEMBER 9 UNLESS OGLE IN MEANTIME WOULD PROVIDE WRITTEN PLEDGE TO CEASE ANTI-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-CONSTITUTION ACTIONS AND TO RESTRICT FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO PURPOSES FOR WHICH HE WAS ADMITTED TO KOREA. CHARGE SUGGESTED LHO DISCUSS QUESTION DIRECTLY WITH OGLE AND LHO SAID HE WILLING MEET OGLE AND RECEIVE WRITTEN PLEDGE IF OGLE AGREEABLE.

5. CHARGE PASSED FOREGOING TO OGLE, WHO RESPONDED HE WOULD SEEK ADVICE OF KOREAN FRIENDS AS TO WHETHER HE CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD SEE LHO AND WOULD INFORM CHARGE OF HIS DECISION BY MORNING DECEMBER 9. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONVINCED HE HAD NOT ACTED IN MANNER CONTRARY TO PURPOSES OF HIS ENTRY.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH LHO, CHARGE AGAIN CITED AT LENGTH REASONS WHY EXPULSION OF OGLE ILL-ADVISED, BUT LHO MAINTAINED THAT WITHOUT GUARANTEE FROM OGLE RE FUTURE

ACTIONS, PRESSURES FROM ELSEWHERE IN ROKG WSRE SUCH
THAT HE FEARED DECISION TO EXPEL WOULD BE TAKEN.
ERICSON

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